

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the title of the patent application at page 1, line 1 as follows:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ADDING DIGITAL CROSS CONNECT  
CAPACITY

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 25 through 28 with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the principles of the present invention, two or more cross connects can be used in a service provider's central office without a need for tandem ties. At least one of the ~~tandem ties~~ cross connects grooms inbound data traffic to local switch(es), and another grooms outbound traffic from the local switches to the rest of the network.